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Weekly Edition - Wednesday - January 16, 2019

The LEIU Source is a weekly news publication brought to you by the LEIU Executive Board.

Each Wednesday, we share with you a few of the articles or intelligence-based publications that have come across our desk. If you have a publication or an article that you feel needs to be shared, please send these to IntelligenceAnalysis@mac.com for review. If you feel others at your department would benefit from receiving this publication, please forward this email. At the bottom of this publication is a link where you can add your email to the distribution list.

Sheriff: Border Fence Helped Cut Crime in Yuma by 91 Percent

YUMA, Arizona—Right along the southwest border, sheriff's departments are

left picking up the pieces in the wake of cross-border crime. It then spreads beyond the border.

Consequently, sheriffs need a bigger seat at the table during border security discussions, said ex-Marine and Yuma County Sheriff Leon Wilmot.

“We all too often see interviews in Washington [with] mayors and governors but, no offence, they are not the ones that are down here on the border,” Wilmot said in an interview at his office on May 25.

How Prohibition Put the "Organized" in Organized Crime

The term “organized crime” didn’t really exist in the United States

before Prohibition. Criminal gangs had run amok in American cities since the late 19th-century, but they were mostly bands of street thugs running small-time extortion and loansharking rackets in predominantly ethnic Italian, Jewish, Irish and Polish neighborhoods.

In fact, before the passing of the 18th Amendment and the nationwide ban on the sale or importation of “intoxicating liquor” in 1919, it wasn’t the mobsters who ran the most organized criminal schemes in America, but corrupt political “bosses,” explains Howard Abadinsky, a criminal justice professor at St. John’s University and author of *Organize Crime*.

“The gangs were thugs in the employ of the political machines,” says Abadinsky, intimidating opposition candidates and funneling votes to the boss. In return, the politicians and police chiefs would turn a blind eye to illegal gambling and prostitution rings.

GameChangers 2018: 5 Reasons LatAm Organized Crime Will Strengthen in 2019

It is hard to be optimistic for 2019. The current trends all point to a strengthening of organized crime throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, as the criminals adapt far more quickly than authorities to changing conditions and take advantage of new opportunities.

Here are the five reasons why we fear that organized crime will grow in strength and sophistication during 2019 in Latin America:

Murder trial begins for Kinfolk MC biker accused of killing Bandidos leader in El Paso

A murder trial began Tuesday morning in a deadly biker gang shooting that killed an El Paso chapter president of the Bandidos.

Javier Gonzalez, a reputed member of the Kinfolk Motorcycle Club, in on trial in 34th District Court on organized crime and murder charges.

Gonzalez is accused of opening fire during a biker fight inside Mulligan's Chopped Hog bar on George Dieter Drive on July 30, 2017.

Juan Martinez Jr., the 61-year-old president of an El Paso chapter of the Bandidos Motorcycle Club, was shot and later died at a hospital. Three other men were also shot.

Martinez, nicknamed "Compa," had been described by friends as a kindhearted businessman. He was owner of J. Martinez and Associates, an accredited disability representative firm that helps clients get Social Security benefits.

DEA agent linked to Colombian money laundering scheme, prosecutors say

(CNN) An agent with the US Drug Enforcement Administration is under investigation in connection with a scheme to launder millions of dollars for Colombian drug traffickers, CNN has learned.

The years-long conspiracy sometimes "involved the use of undercover accounts controlled by the DEA," according to court papers filed in US District Court in Tampa, Florida.

The agent is not identified by name but is characterized as a "co-conspirator" in the case against a long-time DEA informant who has pleaded guilty to money

laundering for the Colombians.

The agent, according to court papers, received cash payments from an account containing hundreds of thousands of dollars in drug money. The agent also directed additional money to be deposited into the accounts of his family members, the documents state.

Three Nabbed For Mob Gambling Ring In Area, DA Says

Three area men have been nabbed for running an illegal gambling ring and money laundering operation in Rockland County that took in more a $1 million.

The three men, John Andriello, 66, of Pearl River; Marco Minuto, 60, of Old

Tappan, New Jersey, and Brian Levine, 49, of Garnerville, were arrested Friday, Jan. 11, according to Acting Rockland County District Attorney Kevin Gilleece.

Cancun Wraps 2018 With At Least 540 Homicides

Breitbart News recently reported that formerly peaceful Cancún continues to experience shocking levels of cartel violence. The previous annual record for murders was smashed in 2018 with 540, as opposed to 2017's 227.

The most recent find of human remains occurred on Supermanzana 206 after citizens reported the discovery of garbage bags on the side the road, according

to local reports. One bag was torn open, exposing a decapitated human head and pair of arms. Once the municipal police arrived, they cordoned off the area and later handed over the scene to the ministerial police of the state attorney general's office. The bags contained what appeared to be the dismembered bodies of two unknown male victims. Both were apparently tortured and exposed to fire, according to the ministerial police.

Human Trafficking Reaches 'Horrific' New Heights, Declares U.N. Report

Human trafficking has taken on "horrific" dimensions, according to the 2018

Global Report on Trafficking in Persons released this month by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The report, which looked at data from 142 countries between 2014 and 2016, points to two particularly disturbing trends, says Angela Me, chief of the research and trend team at UNODC. The first is the increasing number of girls forced into trafficking, most frequently for sexual exploitation. The other is the growing prevalence of trafficking as a tool of war.

Nearly 25,000 cases of human trafficking were reported to UNODC in 2016, up from approximately 20,000 in 2014 and 17,000 in 2013. Me cautions that the increases reported by UNODC may reflect more trafficking, or, alternatively, greater reporting by authorities, or perhaps a combination of both.

Authorities Warn About Sex Traffickers Luring Teens Via Gaming App, 7 Arrested

A raid by Florida cops on a squalid mobile home revealed two teenage boys — one of whom had been repeatedly sexually abused — who had been lured from their families via an online gaming app, police said Monday.

St. Petersburg police said the two teen boys – 16 and 17 years old – were rescued in May after Louisiana authorities alerted them the 17-year-old had been persuaded to leave home by someone he met on gaming app Discord and could be living in a mobile home in the Florida city.

Honolulu City Attorney Targeted in Federal Corruption Probe

HONOLULU (AP) — The city of Honolulu's chief legal officer received a target letter linked to an ongoing federal corruption investigation sparked by allegations that a now-retired police chief and his former prosecutor wife framed a relative for stealing their home mailbox.

The target letter sent to Corporation Counsel Donna Leong is the latest development in the closely watched saga, which has already resulted in indictments against retired Chief Louis Kealoha and Katherine Kealoha, who had been a deputy Honolulu prosecuting attorney. Current and former police officers have also been charged.

AI-Controlled Checks to Boost Security and Speed Up Traffic at EU Borders

Traffic across the EU's external borders is on the rise, as is the threat posed by illegal immigration. As over 700 million people enter the EU each year, this puts considerable pressure on border agencies that must adhere to strict security protocols while at the same time ensuring the smooth flow of traffic into the EU. Increased international trade and more sophisticated criminal activity make border checks even more challenging. Therefore, authorities need to provide a fast and efficient border clearance process while also safeguarding the safety and security of checkpoints.

Crypto Forecasts for 2019

There has been a lot of thinking and rethinking during 2018 about blockchain, cryptocurrencies, bitcoin and everything digital currency related. I wrote about the challenges getting blockchains implemented for example, and was surprised to find myself enduing up as a network meme.

The power of the pundit, ay?

Last year we saw bitcoin drop from a valuation of near $20,000 to a hovering just above $3,000 a year later, and many levels in-between. This is not a stable market and anyone who believes cryptocurrencies, blockchains and ICOs and the rest of truly investable are a little deluded. Right now, they're about as safe as a night in Las Vegas. However, there are investable assets in crypto if you know were to look. I just feel sorry for the vast number of idiots who didn't have their eyes open.

Anyways, my friends at 11FS and specifically Simon Taylor, who hosts the Blockchain Insiders, has made some interesting predictions for 2019.

Bitcoin News - Research Expert Calls Bitcoin Attractive to Terrorists in Forbes Article

In a recent Forbes publication, the Head of the Centre on Radicalization and Terrorism (CRT) at the Henry Jackson Society, Nikita Malik, recently explored the question of whether Bitcoin is a reliable payment system for terrorists.

Why attractive?

In Malik’s opinion, Bitcoin and its anonymity should be studied to understand why it's often used in the criminal world.

According to the Europol report for 2015, the first and most famous digital currency was featured in more than 40% of high-profile investigations related to money transactions between criminals in the European Union.

All information about Bitcoin and altcoin transactions are recorded in a distributed registry called blockchain. This information isn't tied to specific names, addresses, phone numbers, emails, pics, geodata, or any other information that can be used to identify the person. This makes it very difficult for law enforcement and intelligence agencies to identify specific illegal financial transactions.

Magecart’s 7 Groups: Hackers Dropping Counter-Intelligence Code in JavaScript Skimmers

Group 4 uses an “odd” anti-analysis technique, with a fingerprinter injected at the bottom of the benign script normally served as a decoy

Whether you are a frequent flyer or a music lover, if your credit card details have been stolen online by hackers over the past few years there’s a significant chance that the Magecart threat group was blamed.

Enterprises from British Airways to Ticketmaster and scores of lower profile businesses have all been hit by the group, which typically uses a JavaScript skimmer that is embedded into e-commerce pages.

And the group is now turning to highly unique counter-intelligence techniques to check if adversaries like law enforcement or threat researchers are trying to analyse its skimmers, a new report warns.

The Legal Implications of Digital Privacy

A June 2018 decision rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States established an interesting principle on digital privacy in a case related to a criminal proceeding.

The decision stated that the government must obtain a warrant in order to collect historical cell site location information (CSLI) of customers held by the cellphone companies. The case's decision is based on whether police must require a warrant in order to access information from users generated by cellphones of a suspect in a criminal investigation. This decision implies that in the future, law enforcement authorities will not have an "unrestricted access to a wireless carrier's database of physical location information" (From the majority by Justice John Roberts).

The origin of the case were several armed robberies of stores in the Detroit area in 2010. Timothy Carpenter was accused of planning the robberies, furnishing weapons and operating as an external lookout.

Importance of Community and Social Media for Law Enforcement

La Crosse, Wis. (WXOW) – On Thursday, Jayme Closs was found alive in northern Wisconsin after her abduction in October. That incident also included the murder of both her parents.

A woman recognized Jayme while walking her dog before bringing her to a

neighbor's home to call 911. Barron County law enforcement officials say efforts to make the situation public contributed to her safety.

Whether it was seeing her face on TV, billboards or signs on semi-trucks traveling the nation the exposure of her situation made it possible for residents in the Town of Gordon to recognize her. A town located miles away from where she was last seen.

Police believe Jayme's abduction took place on October 15, missing nearly three months.

"It's amazing the will of that 13-year-old girl to survive and escape," Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald explains.

Law enforcement worked tirelessly getting information out to the public to help find Jayme. Officials say the community involvement made a difference.

Dark Web Creating 'Thriving Criminal Eco-System' Around Game

Criminals are turning to video game mega-hit “Fortnite” and its 200 million players as an easy way to launder cash from stolen credit cards, according to cyber intelligence firm SixGill.

“‘Fortnite’s’ format and popularity have drawn the attention of cybercriminals, and resulted in a thriving criminal eco-system around the game,” according to a report by the company. “As the game’s popularity increases and the financial system around it becomes more diverse, fraud involving games such as ‘Fortnite’ is likely to become more prevalent.”

Reached for comment Tuesday, Epic Games said it continues to combat fraud in its games.

CT: TSA Worker Accused of Money

Laundering Scheme in Stamford

Jan. 15--STAMFORD -- A furloughed Transportation Security Administration worker has been accused of helping to steal $300,000 from a New Jersey company and stash it under fake names in local banks.

Police say the scheme, however, was not related to the man needing money because of the federal government shutdown.

Dennis Morehead, 48, of Mount Vernon, N.Y., a TSA worker based at John F. Kennedy International Airport, has been charged with racketeering, money laundering, identity theft, forgery, third-degree larceny, criminal attempt at first-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit third-degree larceny. He has been held in lieu of a $350,000 court appearance bond.

A Profession in Crisis: Addressing Recruitment and Hiring Practices in Law Enforcement

Recruiting and retaining qualified police officers is one of the greatest challenges facing law enforcement leaders. Low pay, antiquated hiring practices, negative public perception, high attrition rates, exposure to chronic stress and trauma, and increasing responsibilities all contribute to the downturn in the number of police applicants. Many agencies report that the quality of applicants has also lowered significantly. Military call-ups, use of illicit drugs, obesity, and excessive debt have lessened the qualified applicant pool.

5 things that should be on every police leader's to-do list in 2019

From the national spotlight on active shooter response policies, the ongoing police recruitment crisis and the increasing awareness of the impact of stress on officers, agencies faced myriad challenges in 2018, with no clear resolutions ahead.

As police leaders start the New Year, prioritizing officer morale and setting clear strategies for the next 52 weeks is key to maintaining effective and efficient LE operations.

Criminals and Guns – Why Cops Are Concerned

Highlights

A very high percentage of violent offenders use or carry firearms per federal sources.

What this means for police-involved shootings and public policy.

Article

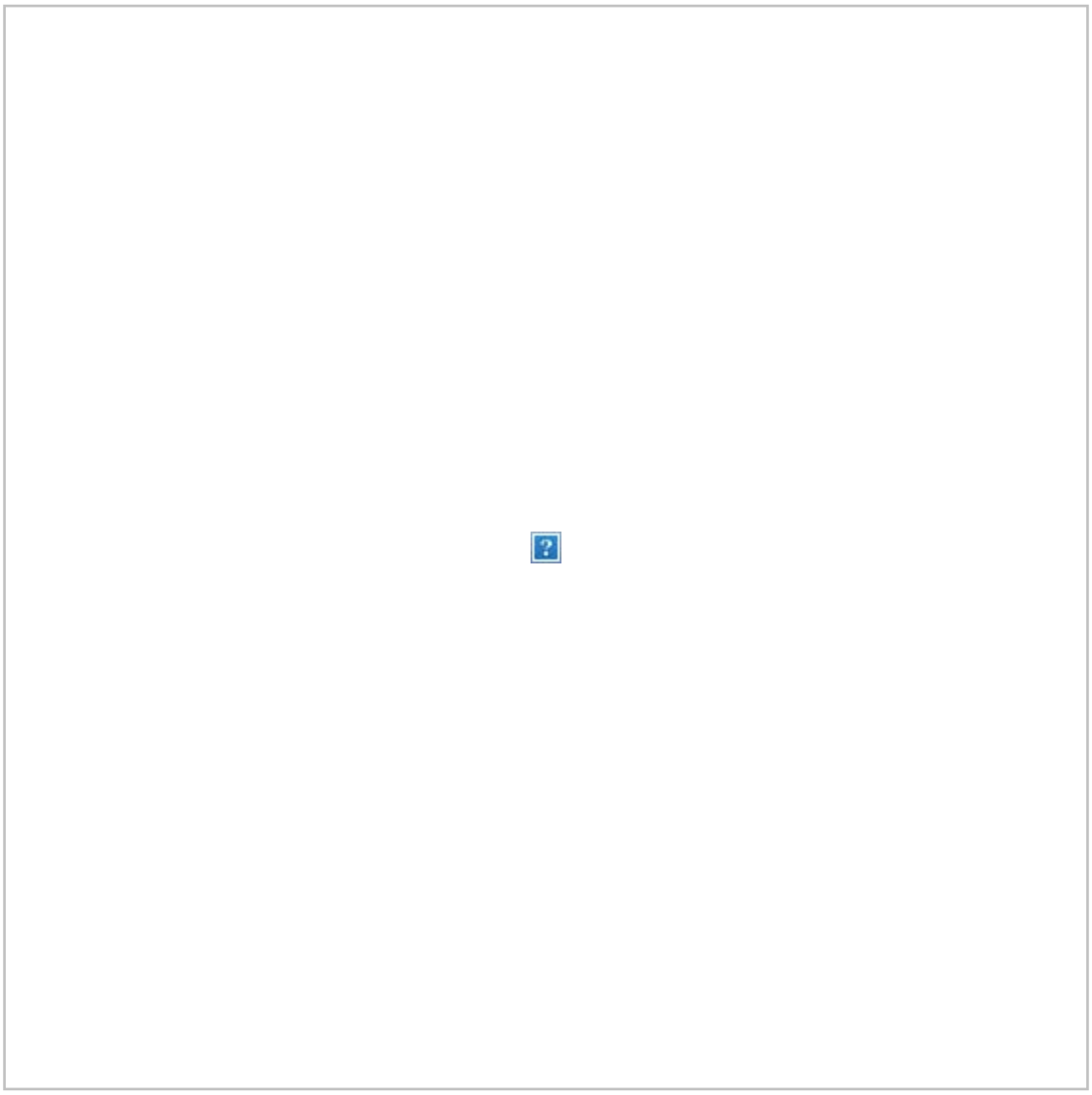
It seems impossible to have an honest discussion about guns. It’s all about emotion, not facts.

But a new report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics from the US Department of Justice is simply too important to ignore. It states that very high percentages of offenders use guns during crime or have access to firearms.

It’s a survey of offenders in prison thus questionable as to accuracy; the

incarcerated are not the most trusting of individuals.

Our LEOs Are Dying Too Quickly In 2019



“Too quickly.”
It’s such a strange phrase that feels so wrong. And it IS so wrong.
The death of a single law enforcement officer in 2019 would be too many.
And yet we don’t have just one. We already have FIVE. By January 11, 2019, we have already lost FIVE.
FIVE police officers who will never see their families again. FIVE men and women who gave everything.
They were tragically removed from this earth while we once again debated

politics.

They were taken from us while politicians once again sat in the warmth of their offices debating whether or not law and order is something we should enforce and support here in America.

They died while we sat in our homes bickering on social media.

How I Infiltrated One of L.A.'s Most Vicious Motorcycle Gangs—and Lived to Talk About It

On and off for almost 20 years, I investigated and infiltrated outlaw motorcycle gangs as an agent for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. I wasn't the only agent to go deep undercover, and I don't claim to be the best. But the work I did took a lot of bad guys off the streets. I infiltrated

the Warlocks in West Virginia in a case that took me up and down the East Coast—Florida, South Carolina, Brooklyn, the Bronx—and resulted in 57 federal arrests (including four Hells Angels) and 49 search warrants executed in six states that turned up 175 firearms (including two sawed-of shotguns and one machine gun), one silencer, one pipe bomb, and body armor.

Here in L.A., I infiltrated the Mongols for three years on what was ATF's most successful undercover case to date and remains the largest single enforcement operation we've done. We prosecuted more than 100 members of the Mongols on weapons and drug charges; 79 of those members were hit with RICO charges, too.

Will stripping the Mongols motorcycle club logo violate First Amendment rights?

A Santa Ana jury ruled Friday that the L.A.-based Mongols motorcycle club would be stripped of its trademark as part of its punishment in a racketeering case.

As reported by the Los Angeles Times, this trademark war has been the headliner of a decade-long fight between federal prosecutors and the L.A.-based Mongols Motorcycle Club, which has been pegged as inciting violence and drug dealing. Prosecutors are hoping that getting rid of the logo will stifle the gang's status and stop them from selling their merchandise with the trademark. The Mongols MC was founded in Montebello in 1969, and is said to have been started by a group of men who were rejected by Hell's Angels.

Edmonton judge sentences alleged Hells

Angels member to house arrest

An Edmonton man identified by law enforcement as a full-patch member of Hells Angels will spend the next 18 months on house arrest.

Christopher Escott, 34, was one of 10 people arrested in June 2016 following a lengthy investigation conducted by the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT), dubbed Project Al-Wheels.

ALERT's organized crime and gang team's officers alleged Hells Angels members, support clubs and associates were involved in the theft and trafficking of stolen trailers and recreational vehicles. They seized more than $1 million in stolen property along with 21 firearms.

Government can’t force people to unlock phones using facial recognition, fingerprints: federal judge

A federal judge in Oakland ruled that law enforcement agencies cannot force people to use biometric features such as facial-recognition to unlock their phones and other devices in a case that highlights the fight between Big Tech and law enforcement over users’ privacy.

The decision arose out of an extortion case in which two suspects allegedly used Facebook Messenger to threaten that if a man didn’t give them money, they would distribute embarrassing video of him.

Judge Kandis Westmore took no issue with authorities’ request for a warrant to search an Oakland home associated with the two men, and possibly seize cell

phones and computers.

“The Government, however, also seeks the authority to compel any individual present at the time of the search to press a finger (including a thumb) or utilize other biometric features, such as facial or iris recognition, for the purposes of unlocking the digital devices found in order to permit a search of the contents as authorized by the search warrant,” Westmore wrote in her ruling. But the judge said that would be unconstitutional.

Upcoming Training / Conferences

Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Units (LEIU) Training (2019). Orlando, FL. April 29-May 3, 2019 - https://cvent.me/My8XX

International Conference on Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism (ICTOCT). Uncasville, Connecticut. April 22-26, 2019. https://www.ictoct.com/asian-organized-crime.html

International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) Conference. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. June 25-28, 2019
- https://www.iaclea.org/iaclea-2018-annual-conference

International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association (ILEETA) Conference & Expo. St. Louis, MO. March 18-23, 2019. https://ileeta.org/ileeta-conference-expo/

National Interdiction Conference. Kansas City, KS. April 28-May 3, 2019. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-national-interdiction-conference-tickets-45361043101

Social Media the Internet and Law Enforcement (SMILE) Conference. Houston, TX. May 20-22, 2019. http://smileconference.com/

National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) Education & Technology Expo. Louisville, KY. June 15-19, 2019. https://www.nsaconference.org/

FBI National Academy Associates Annual 55th National Annual

Training Conference. Phoenix, AZ. July 20-23, 2019. https://fbinaa2019.com/

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) 126th Annual Conference & Expo. Chicago, IL. October 26-29, 2019. https://www.theiacpconference.org/

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